

Library

B O R O U G H O F A L D E B U R G H

ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

and

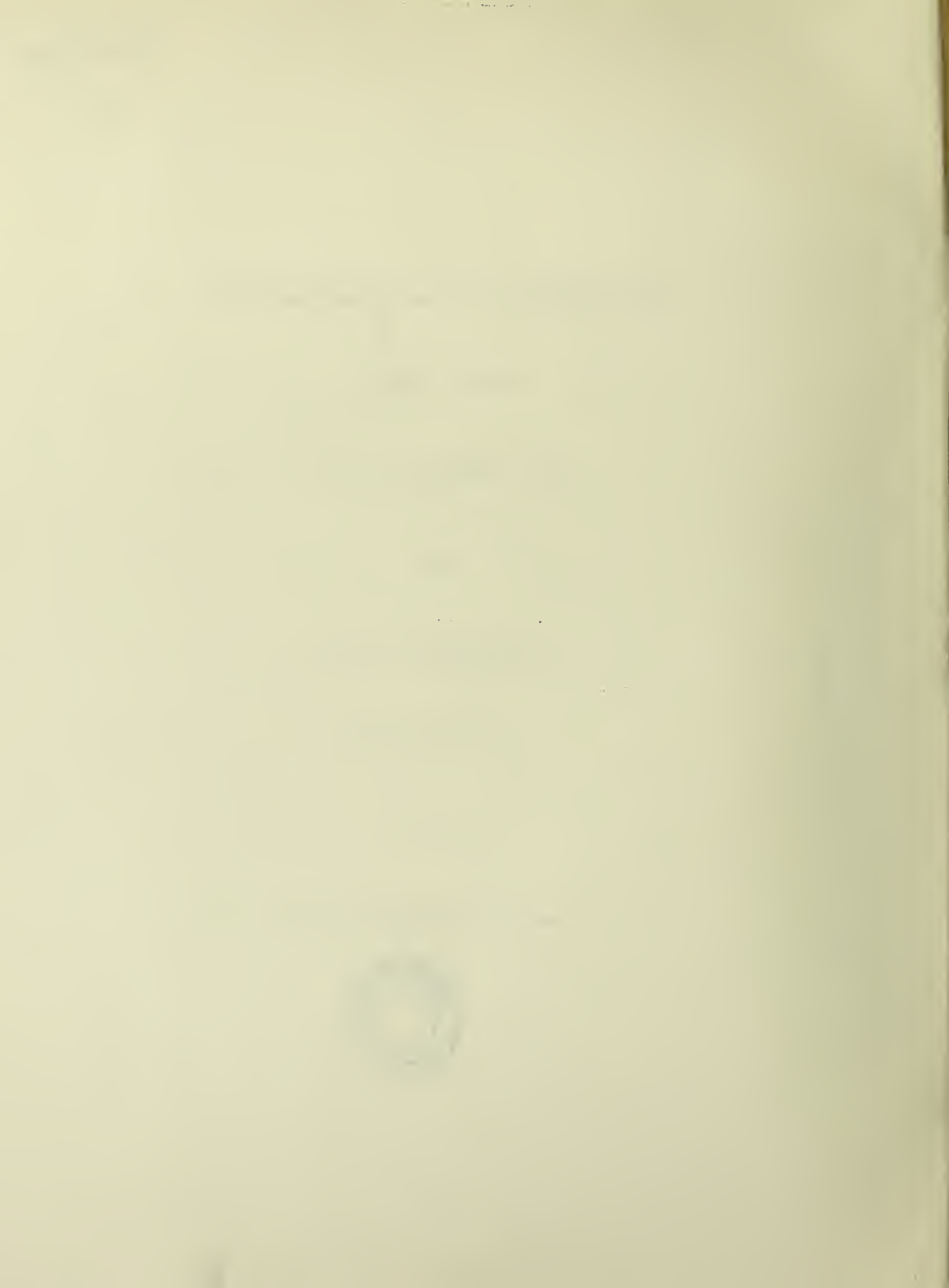
Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 7

-----oOo-----





C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Public Health Officers of the Authority.....	3
Statistics.....	4
Notifiable Diseases.....	9
Tuberculosis.. ..	10
Water Supply.. ..	12
Sewerage.....	13
Housing.....	13
Action under various Acts and Regulations.....	14
Food Premises.....	14
Appendix.....	16

The Mayor,

The Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have great pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1957.

I would like in doing so to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and encouragement and I would also mention with gratitude the co-operation I have received from the Officers of the Council especially the Town Clerk and the Borough Surveyor.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. LERIE, T.D.,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

W. HODGSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough.....2,679 acres.

Rateable Value.....£47,607

Product of ld. Rate.....£198

VITAL STATISTICS.

Summary covering five years.

Population	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
	2,780	2,750	2,720	2,690	2,650
Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	24.4 (68)	21.09 (58)	16.91 (46)	18.96 (51)	24.15 (64)
Still birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	-	0.31 (1)
Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.30 (37)	14.9 (41)	13.56 (37)	14.13 (38)	12.1 (32)
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live Births.	44.1 (3)	-	-	39.21 (2)	31.2 (2)

Figures in brackets are the actual
numbers of relevent births or deaths.

Comparability. For the purposes of statistical comparison with other districts of different sizes and composition, the Registrar General supplies a factor which when applied to our Birth and Death Rates gives the following results:-

Birth Rate	Aldoburgh per 1,000 population	26.7
" "	England & Wales per 1,000 population	16.1
Death Rate	Aldoburgh per 1,000 population	10.0
" "	England & Wales per 1,000 population	11.5

1.	<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	Legitimate	33	33	66
	Illegitimate	-	2	2
2.	<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
	Legitimate	-	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
3.	<u>ALL DEATHS</u>	13	24	37
4.	<u>INFANTILE DEATHS</u>	-	3	3
5.	<u>DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH</u> <u>CHILDBIRTH</u>	-	-	-

Deaths by Causes.

	1955	1956	1957		
			Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis respiratory	-	-	-	-	-
" others	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-	1	1
" " lung bronchus	1	-	-	-	-
" " breast	1	-	-	-	-
" " uterus	-	1	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	1	-	3	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	8	1	6	7
Coronary disease, angina	8	7	4	2	6
Total carried forward	22	18	5	12	17

	<u>1 9 5 5</u>	<u>1 9 5 6</u>		<u>1 9 5 7</u>	
Brought forward	22	18	5	12	17
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	-	1	1
Other heart diseases	7	10	5	3	8
Other circulatory diseases	1	1	1	2	3
Influenza	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	1	2	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	-	-	-
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	1	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	3	2	3	5
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	4	-	1	1
Suicide	-	-	-	2	2
Homicide and actions of war	-	-	-	-	-
Total	37	41	13	24	37

Comment on Statistics.

The Population again shows a small mean rise and by mid 1957 stood at 2,780.

The Live Birth Rate is very considerably higher than the rate for England and Wales and is higher than that of most of the neighbouring areas. The total of 68 Births during 1957 was the highest for many years. The absence of Still Births for the fourth year in succession is also a matter for satisfaction.

The General Death Rate was ^{rather} lower than for the previous three years and is roughly comparable with the Rate for England and Wales.

The occurrence of three Infantile Deaths (under one year of age) follows a period of two years free from this Mortality Group.

The Causes of Death are analysed in the table and display much the same pattern as in previous years. It is perhaps noteworthy that deaths from infective processes were completely absent and that malignancy, as a cause of death, does not seem to be increasing as reported in some areas. Deaths from violence (accidental and suicidal) totalled three, this being approximately one in every ten deaths, representing a wastage which might have been avoidable in some cases.

Notifiable Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases showed no particular prevalence except from a small outbreak of Whooping Cough towards the end of the year. Tuberculosis cases notified for the first time totalled one, and one case was removed from the register as recovered. At the end of April the Norwich Moss Radiography unit visited the town and a total of 569 people were examined including School Staff (six) Hospital Staff and Midwives (six) V. S. Childrens Home Staff (seven) the results of the survey are included in the Tables.

The hazards to health which we encounter very greatly from age to age and are possibly less now than they have ever been. The major killing infections are now under control and will probably soon disappear. Industrial disease, with increasing knowledge is steadily decreasing. The diseases associated with old age may appear to be increasing possibly due to the increasing numbers who attain advanced years but these are now being investigated and there is hope that in time age may be delivered from many of its pains. Recently much attention has been devoted to the dangers to the population of the increasing use of nuclear energy. As this is a subject about which we will undoubtedly hear more in the future I have included an appendix aimed at giving as fair a statement of the position as possible. It should be noted that this appendix was prepared some six months ago and represented the information available at that time.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Monthly Incidence

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1957	1956	1955
Measles	1	2			3								6	25	3
Erysipelas			1		1								2		
Whooping Cough			1									12	13		
Infective Jaundice				1									1		1
Scarlet Fever									1				1		1
Polio-myelitis									1				1		
Dysentery														1	
Food Poisoning														4	
													24	30	5

Age Distribution.

	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	Over 50	Total
Measles		3	2				1				6
Erysipelas										2	2
Whooping Cough			3	9	1						13
Infective Jaundice										1	1
Scarlet Fever							1				1
Poliomyelitis			1								1

TUBERCULOSIS

Males

Females

	Pulmonary	<u>Non-</u> Pulmonary	Pulmonary	<u>Non-</u> Pulmonary	Total
Number of cases on Register at 1. 1. 57.	5	-	5	1	11
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time.	-	-	-	1	1
Number of cases restored to Register after being removed.	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification.	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from Register during year.	-	-	1	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register at 31. 12. 57.	5	-	4	2	11

Reasons for removal from Register:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Recovered	-	1	1
Removed from district	-	-	-
Died	-	-	-
Not tuberculosis	-	-	-
<hr/>			
Total -	-	1	1
<hr/>			

Mass X Ray Survey

30th April - 1st May, 1957.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of examinations	243	326	569
Number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis found. (Inactive post primary case).	1	-	1

Other diseases discovered:-

Bronchiectasis	1
Asthma	1
Sarcoidosis	2
Cardiovascular Lesions	3

Water Supply.

The public water supply is derived from a well with feeders sunk into the Goralline Crag layer which is believed to rest on London Clay. The supply is made good by local rainfall and water passing the collection area escapes to marsh dyles, the River Alde and the sea. Extraction is by electrically operated pumps at the rate of 18,000 gallons per hour, delivering to a high level storage tower 35,000 gallons in capacity, and thence by gravity mains to the town.

Water levels in the Well were generally satisfactory throughout the year, but as a precautionary measure, a temporary restriction was imposed on the use of sprinklers for garden watering before 2 p.m. daily during the last week in June. A total of 56,954,000 gallons was pumped during the year, representing an average of 156,038 gallons per day.

The question of the provision of water meters for certain business premises and the revision of water charges generally were under consideration during the year. Two meters for test purposes were installed, these functioned satisfactorily over the full 12 months.

Extensions to the distribution system included 1,400 feet of 3" main in Leiston Road and Kings Legend to serve new housing development.

The quality of the water has been maintained at a satisfactory standard, typical analyses being shown below:-

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT. RAW WATER FROM WELL.

Water from Shallow Well, sample taken from No. 1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks.

Date and hour of collection of sample	26. 6. 57.	0850	hrs.
Date and hour of arrival of sample	26. 6. 57.	1530	hrs.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically	3	per	ml.
" " 3 " @ R. T.	46	per	ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C.	0	per	100 ml.
" " " faecal coli.	0	per	100 ml.

Remarks.

Bacteriological findings satisfactory.

(Sgd) P. H. BURNIN

H. O. i/c L. H. Laboratory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT CHLORINATED WATER FROM
FAIRFIELD SUPPLY.

Water from Shallow Well, sample taken from tap at 39, Fairfield Road.

Date and hour of collection of sample	26. 6. 57.	0915	hrs.
Date and hour of arrival of sample	26. 6. 57.	1530	hrs.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically	6	per	ml.
" " " " 3 " @ R. T°	9	per	ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C.	0	per	100 ml.
" " " faecal coli.	0	per	100 ml.

Remarks.

Bacteriological findings satisfactory.

(Sgd) P. H. MARTIN

M. O. i/c P. H. Laboratory.

Sewage Disposal.

No material extensions to the sewage system of the town were undertaken during the year.

A 6" Cast Iron pumping main laid in clay marshland and affected by graphitisation gave rise to a number of bursts early in the year. A length of some 50 feet was ultimately removed and replaced with Asbestos Cement pipe.

Following an approach by the Blyth Rural District Council in connection with the taking of sewage from the parish of Thorpeness through the Aldborough sewerage system and disposal works, very active consideration was given to the matter of the necessary alterations and desirable improvements at the disposal works and to the main sewers draining the North Western part of the town.

HOUSING

Statistics.

No. of new Council Houses completed during the year	3
No. of Council Houses occupied at 31. 12. 57.	134
No. of units of accommodation requisitioned at 31.12.57.	0
No. of private houses completed during the year	12
Total No. of units of accommodation within the Borough	1,157
No. of houses inspected	85

No. unsatisfactory	21
No. rendered fit by informal action	14
Abatement Notices served	1
No. of Demolition Orders secured	0
No. of dwellings included in Clearance Orders	0
No. of dwellings demolished	0
No. of undertakings not to relet for dwelling accommodation accepted	0
No. of Improvement Grants made	3

ACTION UNDER VARIOUS ACTS AND REGULATIONS

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No. of factories employing mechanical power	12
No. of factories without mechanical power	3
Other premises (Sec. 103, 107 and 108)	13
Visits made during the year	27
Outworkers	Nil
Defects found and remedied by informal action	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Section 47 - No action required.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Premises inspected	188
Treatments carried out	51

FOOD PREMISES.

Number of Food Premises by type of business.

Grocers	9	Ice Cream	14
Dairies	2	Butchers	3
Licensed Premises	17	Fried and Wet Fish	3
Bakers	2	Greengrocers	5
Sweets other than Grocers	2	Slaughterhouses	1

Number of Food Premises registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream Dealers	14	Sausage Manufacturers	2
No. of inspections of registered premises			32

Milk and Dairies.

Licences issued:-

Dealers. Pasteurised	2
" T. T. (Pasteurised)	2
Supplementary. Pasteurised	1
" (Pasteurised)	1

Meat Inspection.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
No. killed	55	7	74	70
No. inspected	55	7	74	70
Whole carcasses condemned:				
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0
Other Causes	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:				
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	3
Other Causes	1	0	0	1

Brief analysis of "other
causes."

Cirrhosis, abscesses, etc.

Note:

No cases of cysticercosis were found.

Condemned food is normally disposed of by burial on refuse tip
sites.

No special examinations have been carried out on consignments of
food.

Condemnation of food (other than meat at slaughterhouses) included
the following items:-

Tinned Meats etc.	37 lbs.
Bollies of pork	2
Sheep carcasses	2

RADIATION HAZARDS.

Much publicity has been given recently to the danger of radiation to the health of the present and future generations. Unfortunately the problem, not by any means a simple one at the best of times, has taken on political and emotional angles which are far from helping to clarify the situation.

A few short statements about radiation may help to clarify the position in a general way:

Radioactivity is a normal property of certain types of minerals of fairly wide distribution, a certain amount of radiation arrives as Cosmic Rays in much the same manner as our sun light from extraterrestrial sources. Radioactivity can however, be made artificially by X ray type of machines or by concentrating the portions of radioactive minerals.

Once a substance becomes radioactive, it retains this characteristic for a longer or shorter period depending on the type of substance. All such materials however, are losing their radioactivity at a definite rate which cannot in any way be altered.

No matter how produced, radiation can cause changes in the cells of the body, more in some tissues than in others, and the amount of effect is roughly in proportion to the amount of radiation which the body receives. Before the employment of nuclear energy became a practical reality the amount of radioactivity which was received by the general mass of the population was very far below the level of danger. The recent increase in radiation due to the use of radioactive materials in industry, the testing of nuclear weapons and the increasing use of X rays has increased the dose to which the population is exposed, but the general level of radiation is still far below that which can produce any danger.

It is generally agreed that there is a maximum amount of radiation which a human being can accept without damage even when spread over a whole lifetime. This maximum has been progressively lowered in recent years with increasing knowledge of the long term hazards.

The question of the remote genetic effects is one about which very little is known. It is however, a fact that germinal tissue is peculiarly sensitive to radiation and the portion most affected is that which carries the inherited characteristics of the species, hence the production of mutations.

From the practical point of view, what are the dangers at present ? In endeavouring to answer this question I will confine myself to considering the dangers as they are, and not in any hypothetical state of war.

(a) Nuclear power stations which are being erected up and down the country to furnish electric power from nuclear sources do not appear to entail any more danger than power stations of the well known conventional type. There does however, seem to be a greater possible hazard from the establishments which manufacture the nuclear fuel. The Atomic Energy Authority which is responsible in this case has a most elaborate safety organisation to prevent harm to the public.

(b) Industrial use of radioactive substances is increasing rapidly, but fortunately the type of substance used is usually one in which the radioactivity is short lived and loses its potential for danger in a few days or weeks. There are at present two main industrial uses for these materials. Luminising of clocks, watches and instruments and the use of Tracer Substances. With the passage of time no doubt the list will be added to. Apart from danger to the persons using the radioactive material the main danger to the community lies in the radioactive waste material, the disposal of which is a problem of the first order.

(c) Much has been talked about the "Fall Out" from nuclear weapon tests. These produce a fine radioactive dust which can remain suspended in the atmosphere for lengthy periods, and can produce contamination over wide areas. The increase in activity in the atmosphere which can be attributed to the tests which have already been carried out, although measurable, is very small and does not appear dangerous. If however, test explosions are going to take place regularly over a period of years, the position might become more serious. It must be remembered that certain of the radioactive products of the explosions especially Strontium 90, are taken up by and stored in the body.

(d) X rays have been in use for some sixty years and the dangers associated with them have been well appreciated. The tendency, however, to use X rays for non essential purposes is growing and it has recently been stated that the contribution made by X rays to the total sum of radiation received by the population is at the present level significant, although not calculated to cause danger.

In writing the above I have tried to give a clear picture of the problem as I see it. If there is no undue increase in the radioactivity to which the population is subjected there seems to be little hazard as we are still well below the danger level. Some increase must however, be inevitable and my feeling is that it should be kept to the lowest level possible both for its immediate and even more for its long term effects.

